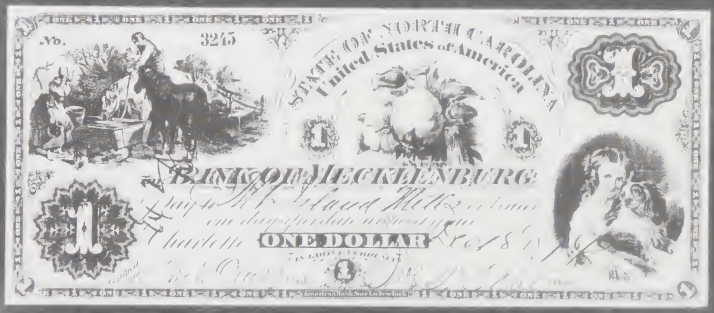
THE CHECK COLLECTOR

July-September 1994 The Journal of Number 31
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.





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To our members:

Write something for *The Check Collector*! We need articles about checks, check-related subjects, and fiscal documents. See the list of 32 areas of collecting interests on the inside back of the mailing cover for ideas.

We accept all material. Illustrations require an original or a good clean black and white copy. Original checks sent to me are insured and returned carefully and promptly. Freehand check drawings are always welcome. Any questions, ask the Editor!

To our advertisers:

Deadline for advertising copy to run in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *The Check Collector* is November 10.

The Check Collector is an effective means of reaching the check collecting hobby, and our membership of collectors and dealers of checks and related financial documents. It contains feature articles about checks and check collecting and news about the hobby.

Advertising orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks and related fiscal documents, publications, accessories, and supplies. The ASCC accepts advertising in good faith, reserving the right to edit copy. Copy for ads must be camera-ready or the Editor will set it as best he can.

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this issue of *The Check Collector* you will find my article on the Mecklenburg bills. When I began to think about what I was going to write, it occurred to me that I did not have the answers to some questions that came to mind. The more I thought about the subject, the more impressed I was with my lack of knowledge.

I consulted Mike Mahler's book United States Civil War Revenue Stamp Taxes and Bill Castenholz's Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper. I noticed that the Field Guide listed the Mecklenburgs as 'scrip.' Not being sure of the exact definition of scrip, I turned to the Encyclopedia Brittanica for help. I still felt inadequate in terms of knowledge, so I contacted a dealer friend in Memphis, Yancey Green, whose southern accent and unusual usage of our language leads me to believe he knows everything about anything indigenous to the South. Yancey referred me to Tony Crumbley of Newell, North Carolina, who edits *The North Carolina Postal History Journal*. Tony's contribution and on site research were most helpful.

Writing the article on the Mecklenburgs was a learning experience for me. I learned things about material in my collection that was hitherto unknown to me. It actually reached the point where I became somewhat impressed (and remain so) with some of the things I own. This euphoria and pride of possession are the rewards of combining research and study with collecting.

Let your collection be a vehicle that brings you true fulfillment. Do some **original research**! Write it up to share with others. (Send it to *The Check Collector*!) This is a foolproof system for achieving the ultimate pleasure from your collection.

PS: WE NEED MORE MEMBERS. PLEASE, PLEASE, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Ed Lipson

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Founded in 1969

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS, INC.

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The Mecklenburg Bills - A New Interpretation

by Edward N. Lipson

from Mecklenburg, the Life and Times of a Proud People
by Howard White and Ruth White

"In 1865, the bell from the First Baptist Church was made into bullets 'to shoot the Yankees.' The Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, held the last meeting of the cabinet in Charlotte while on retreat from Richmond. It was here, while speaking to a crowd at the Bate's home where he was staying on South Tyron, he was handed a telegram informing him that Lincoln had been assassinated on April 14th. The town clerk, T.W. Dewey, summed up the spring of 1865:

> "The town was filled with Confederate soldiers. The town books and papers were sent off to the country. The town clerk hid himself in the woods with the valuables of the bank of North Carolina. Richmond fell. Lee and Johnston surrendered. The Confederate president and his cabinet held their last meeting in the Branch Bank Building and departed. The Confederacy ended."

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The Bank of Mecklenburg was in existence and is listed in Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1872 (p. 153). Under "Mecklenburg County – Local Corporations" we find this listing:

"Bank of Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Jas. T. Tate, President; Tho. W. Dewey, Cashier; F.H. Dewey, Ass't Cashier; Chas. Snow, Book Keeper." Three other editions of the Branson Directory for the years 1869, 1884 and 1896 do not list the Bank of Mecklenburg.

The Charlotte City Directory for 1875 (which is on microfilm) has the following information:

"Bank of Mecklenburg, Jas. T. Tate President; Thomas W. Dewey, Cashier. Tyron bet. Trade & Fourth." Mr. Tate was listed as living at the Central Hotel and Thomas W. Dewey, Cashier, resided in the Bank Building, Tyron between Trade and Fourth.

The Bank is also referred to in J.B. Alexander's book The History of Mecklenburg County from 1740 to 1900:

"Tate and Dewey's Bank started to do a considerable business, put out bills with a free hand, and the people encouraged the bank by depositing there all their surplus. Its career was short. Mr. Dewey died and the bank collapsed; no assets of any consequence were left; many people lost heavily; the bubble burst and a nine-days' wonder was all that was left.

"No checking has been made of the newspapers of that period. The City Cemetery Office reported that Thomas Dewey was buried on August 5, 1875 in Section A, Lot 87 of the Elmwood Cemetery in Charlotte, NC."

The Charlotte City Directory of 1879 lists Bessie L. Dewey as the widow of T.W. Dewey.

A new Bank of Mecklenburg exists, founded in 1989, with two branches.

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The Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper, Southern States, published by Castenholz and Sons, lists and describes the Mecklenburg Notes as "scrip taxed as drafts." In this writer's opinion, **the Mecklenburgs are neither currency, bank notes, nor scrip. They are bills of exchange, payable at one day's sight.**

Let us review the Encyclopedia Brittanica's definition of scrip. From The Encyclopedia Brittanica, Eleventh Edition, the Scholar's Edition:

"SCRIP, properly any written document; the word is a corruption of 'script,' (Lat. *scribere*, to write), possibly with an assimilation with 'scrip,' a pilgrim's bag or wallet, which is borrowed from the Scandinavian (of Nor. *skreppa*, knapsack), and is ultimately cognate with 'scrap,' shred. In commercial usage, 'scrip' is a document or certificate issued by a public company when installments upon its shares are payable at different dates, or the whole amount to be paid has not been called up. Such a document entitles the person named to be treated as the allotee of the shares mentioned; it is transferable and entitles the allotee on payment of all the calls to a share certificate. Scrip requires a penny stamp impressed upon it. [*This last sentence must be applicable to the period 1910-11 and in Great Britain where impressed stamps were then in use. - Author*] The word is frequently loosely used for the share certificates or shares collectively."

The terms 'bill of exchange (at sight)' or 'sight draft' are very much alike in meaning. The definition of either one in any of the financial dictionaries will support the author's view that the Mecklenburgs are bills of exchange or drafts payable at one day's sight.

Further, they are not to be confused with items which are frequently referred to as 'broken bank notes.' The so-called broken bank notes went out of existence with the establishment of the National Banking System in 1863.

The National Banking System was authorized by the Act of 25 February 1863 (supplemented by the Act of 3rd of June 1864). This system led to the establishment of National Banks organized under Federal Charters. Chartered National Banks were permitted to issue notes in a limited amount which were secured by the deposit with the federal government of government bonds in an amount in excess of the value of the notes issued.

The state banking systems in the older states were so firmly entrenched in the confidence of the commercial community that the federal government had to take strong measures to remove from circulation those notes issued by banks without a Federal Charter. A federal tax of ten percent was imposed on the face value of notes of state banks in circulation as of July 1, 1866. This in effect put an end to the issuance of notes by state banks, some of which became National Banks in order to be able to issue untaxed notes in accordance with the National Banking System. Other state banks continued their commercial business under state charters, without issuing notes.

The issuance of the Mecklenburg bills was a most skillful and imaginative way of skirting the federal National Bank requirements. When first issued and distributed in 1874 as time drafts payable at one day's sight they avoided the federal tax of ten percent. Further, as a time draft payable at one day's sight, the bills issued in 1874 were not subject to the two cent Documentary Tax. This position is supported by a letter dated September 30, 1872, from B.J. Sweet, Acting Commissioner, to S.B. Dutcher, Esq., Supervisor of Internal Revenue at New York.

Unstamped Mecklenburg bills were first issued in 1874, based on various examples in the author's collection. Most examples that have been seen are in poor condition, and there is every indication that they were actively used. The $1 and $5 bills are rarely found in decent condition. The $2 and $10 bills are rarely seen at all. An old photocopy of a $20 bill has been seen, but more research will be required before it can definitely be claimed to exist.

Evidence that the 1874 Mecklenburg bills were considered bearer drafts, time checks, or bills of exchange payable at one day's sight is given by the fact that bills issued in 1875 began to bear imprinted revenue stamps. The government began to feel that in many instances the two cent tax on checks, drafts, or orders for payment was being avoided by their wording. As a consequence, the September 30, 1872, ruling of Acting Commissioner Sweet was superseded by the letter following:

Treasury Department
Office of Internal Revenue
Washington, Feb. 17, 1875

Section 15 of the Act of February 8, 1875, provides: That a bank check, draft, order, or voucher for the payment of any sum of money whatsoever, drawn upon any bank, banker or trust company, shall be subject to a stamp tax of two cents.

By this enactment checks, etc., drawn on time, are liable to the stamp tax, as well as those payable on sight or demand; so also are *receipts* and all *other vouchers*, taken by banks, bankers, and trust companies for the payment of money by them

Collectors are hereby instructed to cause a copy of this Circular to be delivered to all banks, bankers, and trust companies in their respective districts, and to note upon their lists of such banks, etc., the date of delivery.

J.W. Douglass,
Commissioner.
IRR v. XXI, March 1, 1875, p.65

The reason why some of the Mecklenburg bills bear the two cent Type D imprinted revenue stamp and others do not becomes obvious The bills issued in 1875 became subject to the two cent tax. This was the case because the revised law required it on any check, draft, or order for payment drawn on any bank, banker, or trust company

The bills in the author's collection which are dated in 1874 are not imprinted, while all those issued in and after March of 1875 have imprints Illustrations of some of these bills are shown. They were engraved by the American Bank Note Company in denominations of $1, $2, $5, and $10 (and, possibly, $20). The bills were actively circulated and when found in excellent condition are among the most desirable pieces of revenue stamped paper

Let us analyze the information available from the bills in the author's possession.

VALUE	RN	SERIAL NUMBER	NUMERAL SIZE	DATE OF ISSUE	REMARKS
$1	NO	3245	SMALL	12-18-74	See Cover
$1	YES	35	SMALL	03-10-75	Figure 1
$1	YES	401	SMALL	03-18-75	
All of the bills listed above regardless of issue date have similar small red serial numbers.					
$1	YES	1068	LARGE	04-01-75	
$1	YES	1528	LARGE	04-01-75	
$1	YES	2487	LARGE	04-01-75	
$1	YES	3084	LARGE	04-01-75	
$1	YES	6724	LARGE	04-01-75	
$1	YES	7729	LARGE	04-01-75	Figure 2

The RN imprint on the $1 bill is at bottom center. This is the most common of the Mecklenburgs.

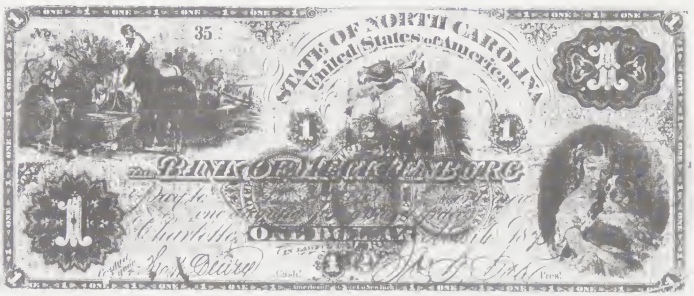


Figure 1: $1 bill of exchange with RN Type D imprint. Small numeral serial #35 printed in red. Date of issue March 10, 1875.



Figure 2: $1 bill with RN Type D. Large red serial #7729. Issued April 1, 1875.

VALUE	RN	SERIAL NUMBER	NUMERAL SIZE	DATE OF ISSUE	REMARKS
$2	NO	1283	SMALL	04-29-74	Figure 3
The $2 bill listed above has small red serial numbers.					
$2	YES	1272	LARGE	04-01-75	
$2	YES	3019	LARGE	04-01-75	Figure 4
$2	YES	3128	LARGE	04-01-75	
$2	YES	3425	LARGE	04-01-75	
$2	YES	3714	LARGE	04-01-75	
The RN imprint on the $2 bill is at lower right.					



Figure 3: $2 bill of exchange with no RN imprint. Small serial #1283 in red. Issued April 29, 1874. Very scarce.



Figure 4: $2 bill of exchange with RN Type D. Large serial #3019 in red. Issued April 1, 1875.



Figure 5 (on preceding page): Back of the $2. Imprints of the American Bank Note Company appear at the top and bottom center. The intricately engraved backs of these bills would deter any attempt to counterfeit them.

VALUE	RN	SERIAL NUMBER	NUMERAL SIZE	DATE OF ISSUE	REMARKS
$5	NO	1221	SMALL	05-01-74	Figure 6
$5	YES	44	SMALL	03-12-75	Figure 7
$5	YES	56	SMALL	03-12-75	Reconstructed from two bills
$5	YES	339	SMALL	03-12-75	

The RN imprint is at the bottom. The $5 bill is the least common.

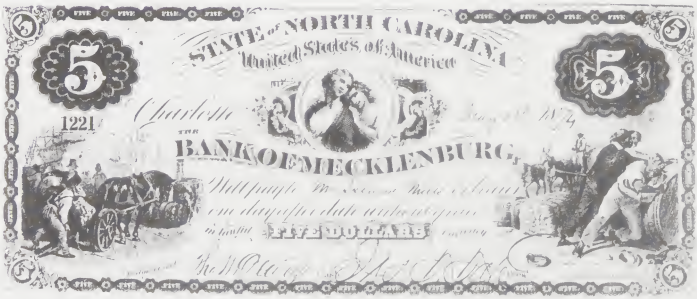


Figure 6: $5 bill of exchange with no RN imprint. Small serial #1221 in red. Issued May 1, 1874.

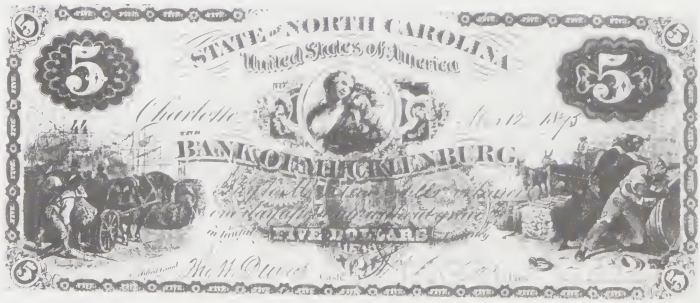


Figure 7: $5 bill with RN Type D. Small red serial #44. Issued March 12, 1875.

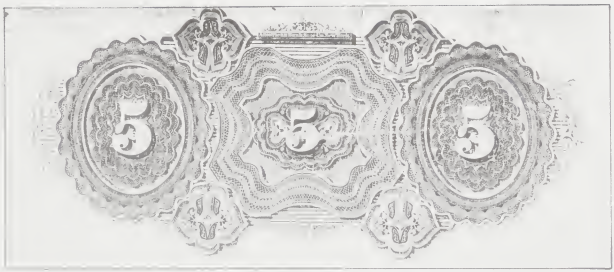


Figure 8: Back of the $5 bill. This side of the bill is particularly beautiful, engraved in a shade of 'money green.'

VALUE	RN	SERIAL NUMBER	NUMERAL SIZE	DATE OF ISSUE	REMARKS
$10	NO	1591	SMALL	11-28-74	Figure 9
$10	NO	3533	*In manuscript*	01-23-75?	Unissued bill Figure 10
$10	YES	511	SMALL	03-24-75	
$10	YES	1093	LARGE	04-01-75	Figure 11

The RN imprint is at lower right

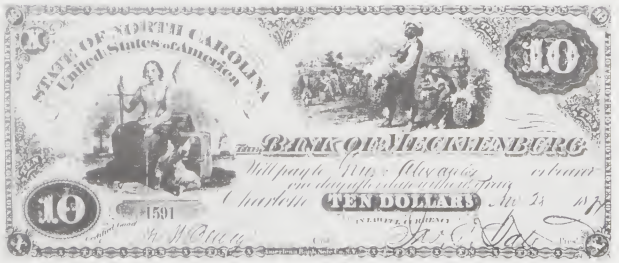


Figure 9: $10 bill with no revenue imprint. Small serial #1591 in red. Issued November 28, 1874

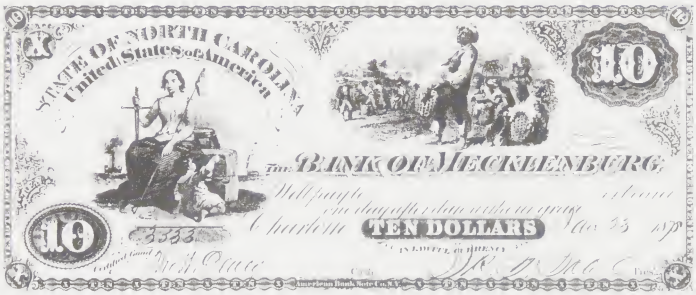


Figure 10: $10 bill of exchange with a *handwritten* serial #3533 No RN imprint. Dated January 28, 1875. Signed, but unissued. Since this bill had no RN imprint it would have become illegal as of February 8, 1875. See text of article for detail. This is a very rare item

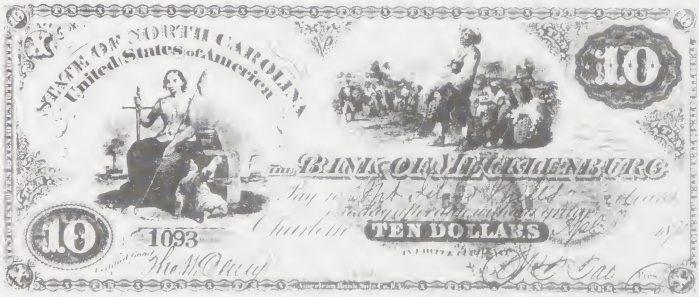


Figure 11: $10 bill of exchange with RN Type D. Large red serial #1093 Date of issue April, 1875 A pristine bill from the Amon Carter collection.

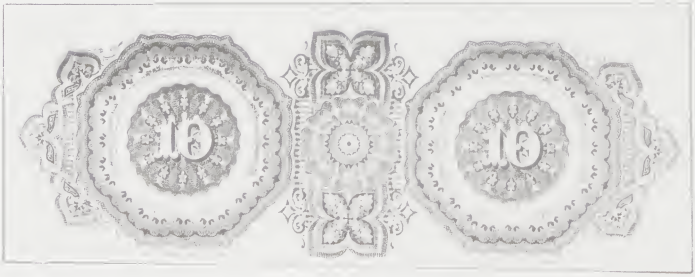


Figure 12 (on preceding page): Back of the $10 bill. Imprints of the American Bank Note Company appear at lower right and lower left.

Apparently all bills issued 03-24-75 or earlier had serial numbers in smaller type, while those issued after that date had the larger numbers. A new sequence of large numbers appears to have begun as of 04-01-75.

The faces of all the bills listed are printed in black and the RN Type D's are in orange. The backs of the bills are printed in green. (Can one justifiably refer to them as 'greenbacks'?)

From the author's experience, Mecklenburg bills without the RN imprint are far scarcer than those that bear the imprint. This is logical when one realizes that the bills without the revenue imprints would have been recalled by the bank.

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A WORD OF THANKS

The author would like to thank Tony L. Crumbley of Newell, North Carolina. Tony edits *The North Carolina Postal History Journal*. His assistance to the author by way of his 'on site' research with regard to the bank of Mecklenburg was indeed helpful

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"There is no such thing as a bad boy."
by Herman Boraker



During the year 1866 a baby boy was born in Ireland. Fifty-one years later he was to undertake a project that would serve as an inspiration for others to follow Authors and historians believe he was the first man to say, "there is no such thing as a bad boy."

Edward Joseph Flanagan became a priest and in 1904 brought with him to America his desire to help other people, especially boys. In 1917 he borrowed ninety dollars from friends and rented a small house in Omaha, Nebraska, and turned it into a home and school for boys who had no families of their own. News of this home soon spread and boys began to come from all over the nation. It was not long before the little house proved too small for the new arrivals.

Father Flanagan's friends helped him again. A large farm just outside Omaha was purchased and given to him. Gradually, enough buildings were built on the farm to house and school five hundred boys. This village became known as Boys Town. The only people who live there are the boys who go to school there and their teachers. Besides going to school the boys work on their own farm and learn trades that will help them make their own living when they are grown up.

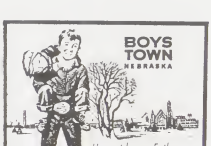
Father Flanagan believed that all children should be given an equal chance regardless of race or creed, rich or poor. He also believed if homeless boys were given a good home and education they would grow up to become fine citizens, while they could become poor citizens or even criminals if they lacked these advantages.

Over the ensuing years Boys Town has built its own administration building, library, gymnasium, bakery, laundry, dairy and workshops where different trades are taught. The land has been cultivated by the boys and they raise much of their own food. Boys Town has its own orchestra, chorus, and baseball, basketball and football teams. It also has its own postoffice.

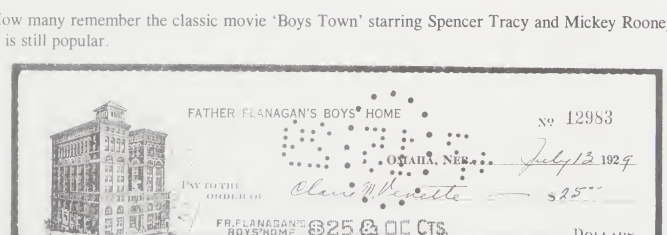
Boys Town was incorporated in 1936 and since that time has been governed by the boys themselves, just as any other village. The boys elect their mayor and council. They make certain that everything is run smoothly and properly, and that Boys Town is a good place to live. Today it is known world wide.

Father Flanagan died in 1948 while visiting Germany. Since his death his work has been carried on by Father Nicholas H. Wegner and several others. People from all over the United States make voluntary contributions to help support Boys Town. Many of the boys have become outstanding citizens... a tribute to Father Flanagan's belief.

For many years Boys town mailed millions of sheets of Christmas stamps nationwide, seeking donations to help continue its purpose of helping boys.



How many remember the classic movie 'Boys Town' starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney? It is still popular.



The check above was issued by Father Flanagan's Boys Home (note the name used in 1929) and was signed by the Reverend E. J. Flanagan.

The Omaha Bank #1633

The Omaha National Bank was chartered July 2, 1866. In 1894 the bank's capital was $1,000,000: in 1968 it was $10,000,000.

According to the Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes by John Hickman and Dean Oakes, published in 1982 by Krause Publications (one of *The Check Collector's* advertisers), we learn that the Omaha National Bank absorbed four banks from 1901 through 1930: the National Bank of Commerce in 1901, the Corn Exchange National Bank in 1924, Merchants National Bank in 1916 and the Peters National Bank in 1930. All were located in Omaha.

$$$$$

Sorry, Virginia, there are no yellow imprints. Why?...Because I said so!

by Bill Castenholz

This discussion of the color orange, as it applies to revenue stamped paper, was prompted by a phone conversation with Ed Lipson. Ed expressed a common concern: are there any RNs which can be called yellow?

Virginia, what seems like a very simple question is, in fact, a bit complicated. We need to take a look at the way in which the collecting of revenue stamped paper fits into the greater field of philately before we can answer the question.

Early collectors of postage stamps identified minor variations of color as significant. Different shades usually represented different printings (press runs).

An example is the first postage issue of the United States. Scott's 1994 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps lists the 1847 five cent Franklin in red brown, pale brown, brown, dark brown, grayish brown, blackish brown, orange brown, brown orange, and red orange. During the four years in which these stamps were produced, numerous printings were made.

Later postage issues were treated similarly, with the result that just about any clearly discernible color variation has been catalogued. An example of this is the Panama-Pacific ten cent stamps of 1913. The difference between orange-yellow and orange is considered important enough to identify these stamps as two major varieties.

Early collectors treated revenue adhesives in a similar manner: they considered color variations as very significant. And they had great justification for doing so. Color variations on some revenues are extreme. The 4 cent, 30 cent, $1.90 and $2.50 stamps vary so much that they are more than shade differences; they are truly different colors. The Boston Revenue Book, published originally in 1899, lists the 4 cent Proprietary in pale slate, bluish slate, greenish slate, dark slate, gray lilac, pale lilac, deep lilac, pale mauve, deep mauve, brown, and purplish brown. This detailed listing of colors was too extensive for later revenue philatelists, and over the years collectors have simplified their collecting to such an extent that currently Scott's Specialized simply lists the stamp as purple. Of course there are specialists who do focus on shade variations. And some of the displays of these near-rainbows are truly beautiful. But, in the main, the revenue adhesive philatelist collects by a very simplified color list.

Now to the revenue imprints. Nearly all revenue stamped paper was produced in the following way: the check, draft, receipt, stock certificate, bond, or other document was first privately printed. Neither the ink, the paper, nor the printer himself were under any official or government control. The printed documents were then sent to one of the authorized government printers for the application of the imprints. When finished, the documents were returned to the customer.

Printing of imprints was going on continually. The paper varied from customer to customer. And there appears to have been no governmental control of the color of the imprint. The results are colors from one end of the spectrum to the other.

Early imprint cataloguers attempted to follow the tradition of the adhesive specialists and list as many variations of color as they could distinguish. The result was chaos. The lists of E. B. Sterling and A. F. Henkels are examples of why revenue stamped paper collecting became nearly extinct in the early part of this century.

Enter the hero. In 1936, E. R. Vanderhoof published a little booklet titled Check List of Civil and Spanish-American War Series of Revenue Stamped Paper. This insignificant-looking publication marked the beginning of order for this fractured field of philately. Vanderhoof radically reduced the number of colors (or shades) listed. It took a long time, but with the help of Sam Smith, the field of revenue stamped paper began to come alive again. Then, in 1979, Joe Einstein, Dick DeKay and Tom Kingsley published A Handbook for United States Revenue Stamped Paper, commonly referred to as "The Survey," an attempt to identify what revenue stamped paper actually existed. A few of the colors that Vanderhoof listed were not found, reducing the overall list even more. Many of the changes dictated by the results of "The Survey" were incorporated into Scott's Specialized Catalogue.

Then the George Turner Sale was held in 1980, and all hell broke loose. A new generation of collectors redefined the term "bidding war," and the field of revenue stamped paper took on the look which it has today

These new collectors were not interested in shade variations. They were interested in obtaining examples of the principal colors. Since orange is the most common color for many of the imprints, a premium was paid for the scarcer colors such as red, brown, or olive. But, red had to be red (although it could be pink or gray-red or even slightly bluish red), but not red-orange. Brown had to be brown, not brown orange. Olive could not be gray. With purple and violet, there were so few printings that it is not difficult to place each in its proper category with confidence.

By this measure, a yellow stamp must not have any trace of red to qualify as yellow. Thus far, none have been found.

In the Field Guide to Revenue Stamped Paper no imprint has been catalogued as yellow. A statement in the Foreword notes: "Because of the extent of the variations in the color orange, and the absence of an imprint in true yellow (with no trace of red), no yellow listings have been included."

While on the subject, I should mention the color aqua. Type L exists in a range of greens which vary from deep green to yellow green. Type L blues are rather consistently true blue (even though they are most often seen printed on blue paper). There is, however, a group of L types which are neither blue nor green, but more appropriately called aqua or turquoise. These should be listed separate from blue or green, principally because they do not represent either a good green or a good blue. If I were to judge a display and an aqua Type L was used to illustrate either green or blue, I would discount it. There are several different users who account for these aqua imprints. From my conversations with one of the Scott's editors, the aqua L's may be listed in the near future.

In one of those conversations I was asked whether yellow should be removed from the entire listings of imprinted stamped paper. I don't have to tell you what my answer was. We will see what happens.

Now go to bed, Virginia. And don't trouble yourself any further with these silly notions.

The above article was reprinted from the June, 1994, issue of *The American Revenuer* with the kind permission of the author and the editor.

Fly-by-Night (or Day) Bank

by Roland P. Burnham

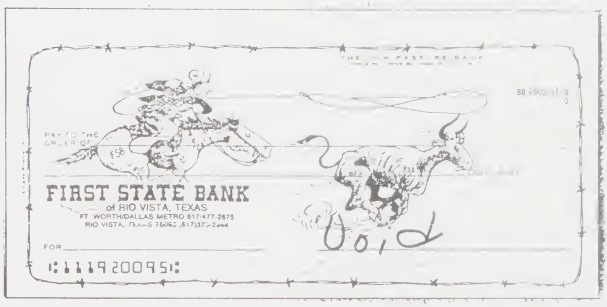
While looking over some of my checks, Bill, my visiting cousin from Ft. Worth, seemed impressed, but remarked, "I'll bet you don't have a check from the Cow Pasture Bank!"

Not sure how to milk this— the guy's always kidding— I replied, seriously, "No. I've got quite a few river bank checks and a Creek Bank check, but I don't believe I've got— or even heard of— the Cow Pasture Bank."

My McFadden American Bank Directory didn't help. We searched all banks around Ft. Worth and Dallas. Bill was quite serious about the bank, but my reference books didn't give a clue.

He left for Ft. Worth, vowing to go into the Cow Pasture Bank and send me a check.

Behold! Never underestimate a Texan! Shortly, I received the check. Not only is it the only Cow Pasture Bank check I've ever seen, it's the only one with barbed wire ringing it. And it's the only bank I know of that boasts of its own landing strip, so wealthy ranchers can fly in and make deposits! "Walk-in, Drive-in, Mail-in or Fly-in."



Bill found that his bank was actually doing business as First State Bank of Rio Vista. Of course! It's in all the directories under that alias! My prized Rand McNally, 1929, shows them with a capital of $25,000; surplus and profits of $10,410, and deposits of $108,000. It has come far. It is the only bank in Rio Vista (pop.541), but it has total assets (1992) of $175,476,000.

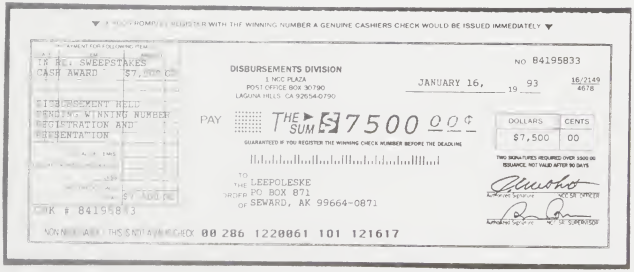
The holding company is Mustang Financial Corp. of Rio Vista. That all's got kind of a Western ring to it, doesn't it?

Non-Check Checks

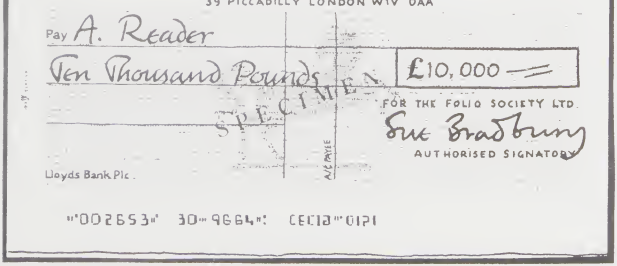
by Lee E. Poleske

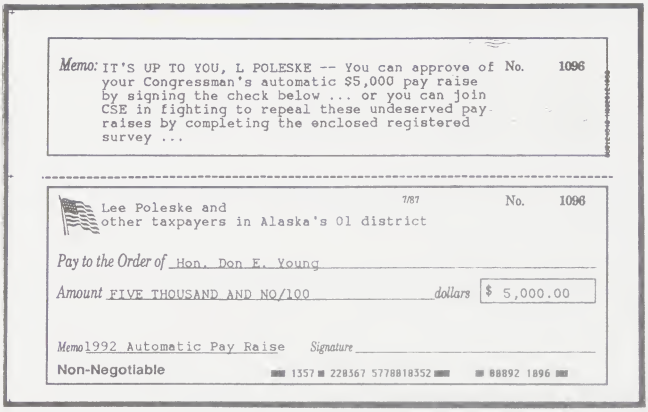
If you are looking for an inexpensive category of checks to collect, you can't go wrong with non-check checks, since they're free.

What is a non-check check? A document that looks like a check - in fact looks so much like a check that there is a written disclaimer on the document saying in one way or another that it is not a check, and is not negotiable.

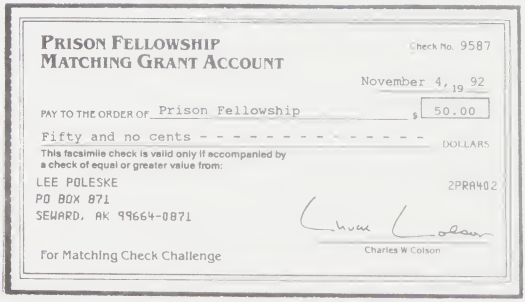


They tend to fall into two types. The first is the familiar sweepstakes or contest check (**Figure 1 above**), in which you receive the non-check and are told that if you have the lucky number and send it in with your order you will receive a real check for the same fantastic amount. The number of sweepstakes seems to be growing, so there is a wide variety of this type of non-check available. I even have a foreign one in my collection (**Figure 2**).





The second type could be called the political/fund-raiser non-check. As an example, the Congressional Pay Raise Survey Project sent me the non-check above (**Figure 3**) as a part of their fund raising effort to block a Congressional pay raise. The Prison Fellowship Matching Grant sent a non-check (**Figure 4**) which I could turn into a real check with my own check for a like or higher amount.



While some purists might scorn my collection of non-checks, I enjoy them and find them interesting and fun.

?✍?✍?

Letters to the Editor:

Here is a guess about John Calhoun's Wells Fargo Check. (Odyssey of a Wells Fargo Check, pp 17-18, TCC #30)

I would say that the El Oro Mining Company was a New York based company with mines in Mexico and the main office in New York City. That's why the check is on Wells Fargo in New York and not San Francisco.

The check was written in New York and signed by officers in the New York office. It was sent directly to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The check was never in Mexico, so there was no need for Mexican revenue stamps.

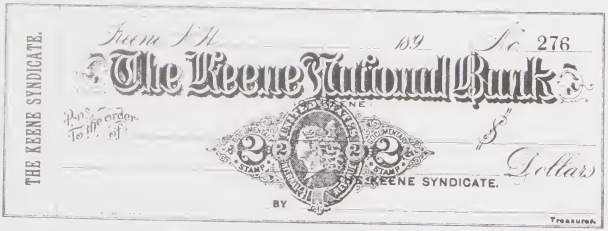
Harmon M. Weeks

The following comments refer to the questions Mr. Ebright raises in his article ('Question,', pp 20-21, TCC #30)

As I remember, the '2' on the First National Bank of Cooperstown draft is the Second - New York City Federal Reserve District. The Clearing House 21 on the Fugazi check is a clearing house in California. Different entities.

Robert A. Spence

A Conversation Piece



Can there be any doubt that this check is from Keene?

WHAT'S HAPPENING OUT WEST...
Martha Cox

The dog days of summer have just ended... hopefully this summer was serene where you are. If you've been relaxing and letting your show schedule slide, maybe something here will get you recharged. Here goes:

Sep 29- Oct 1 Golden State Coin Show
Los Angeles, CA
Kay Lenker 619-222-8739

Oct 5-9 Long Beach Coin, Stamp & Card Expo
Long Beach Convention Center
300 East Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA
Teresa Darling 310-437-0819

Oct 16 Southern Arizona Coin & Stamp Show
Tucson, AZ
Bohdan Bobjak 602-742-2002

Oct 29-30 Sacramento Valley Club Coinarama
Carmichael, CA
Jeff Shevlin 916-969-3308

Nov 3-6 Denver Coin & Sports Extravaganza
Denver, CO
Jerry Morgan 303-759-1895

Nov 12-13 Buena Park Coin & Stamp Expo
Buena Park, CA
Barbara Griffiths 503-549-3502

Nov 17-20 Santa Clara Coin, Stamp & Card Show
Santa Clara, CA
Rudy Christians 916-347-6140

Nov 20 Southern Arizona Coin & Stamp Show
Tucson, AZ
Bohdan Bobjak 602-742-2002

Dec 9-11 Glendale Coin & Stamp Expo
Glendale Civic Auditorium
1401 Verdugo Road, Glendale, CA
Barbara Griffiths 503-549-3502

Dec 18 Southern Arizona Coin & Stamp Show
Tucson, AZ
Bohdan Bobjak 602-742-2002

The above information is a compilation of several listings. Please "double check" before you make a trip to any of these events. Further checking with the contact person listed will be necessary to determine the exact location of many of these shows; I am sorry that specific locations were missing from the information I received.

This column is offered as a service for our members residing in the West with several benefits to be realized. It is intended to assist our collector members with valuable show information for their area. It is also intended to be of service to our dealer members to promote their show schedules; as collectors, we certainly want to patronize our ASCC dealer members first. By having this information weeks/months in advance of the event, members have time to contact the event organizer to plan an ASCC meeting or round table discussion. Some organizers want money for providing space, others do not. If you don't know, it doesn't hurt to ask!

Intending to give you as much information as possible I have listed every show I know of at this time. Drop me a note with your comments on the shows you would go back to and those you never want to waste your time on again. You will be helping all of us. Dealers, I will be happy to mention your upcoming shows; just drop me a note with your schedule. Collector members, if you know of or are involved in organizing a show or event, let me know, I will be happy to include information here. Be mindful of our publication deadlines, however.

Forward your catalogs and correspondence to: Martha Cox, 14085 Mango Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014. Information on events for the period January-March 1995 should be sent to me no later than November 10, 1994, which is the deadline for inclusion in the October-December issue of *The Check Collector*.

Happy Hunting!



ASCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

This report includes changes received through August 26, 1994.

There will be a directory of members published in the October-December issue of *The Check Collector*. If you have any changes to your listing in the previous directory or in *TCC* when you first joined, please notify the Secretary. A list of areas of collecting interest appears with the membership application on the inside of the back mailing cover.

NEW MEMBERS

1488	AQUILINO, WILLIAM F (C/D) Box 9 Chalfont PA 18914-0009 (by Ed Lipson)	1, 3, 4 (promissory notes), 9, 20, 32
1487	COHEN, HOWARD L. 3170 NE Loop Dr Otis OR 97368 (article in Coin World)	1, 4, (fiscals with name/logo of 'Cohen' or 'Howard')
1489	G. & J WHITE BANKNOTES (D) 29 Shortacre Basildon, Essex SS14 2LR United Kingdom	
1491	HARTZ, LEE 5494 W Fairy Chasm Rd Brown Deer WI 53223 (by John Wilson)	2 (IA, Dubuque), 30
1490	JENKINS LARRY (C/D) 2043 Atlantic Hwy Warren ME 04864	2 (New England), 4, 22, 31
1493	MATESEN, MACK E 19828 80th Place West Edmonds WA 98026-6404 (American Revenue Association)	2 (Western), 26, 31
1486	MULLAN, JOHN D. Box 758 St. Petersburg FL 33731-0758	1, 4, 20-23, 30-31
1494	SWANSON BEN Z 616 South Hanover St Baltimore MD 21230	12 (Dental or patent medicine, US or foreign)
1492	WINNERS, LES (C/D) Box 1442 Brandon MS 39043	2, 23

REINSTATED

1264	KRALJEVICH, JOHN JR RD #7 Murray School Rd Pottstown PA 19465	1-2, 20, 22-23, 25, 31
1406	SCHWARTZ, DR. ROBERT I (C/D) Box 264 New York NY 10021	1, 4 (B/E), 7 (pre-1921), 9, 12 (proofs, Nat. City Bank, Intern. Banking Corp), 23-24, 31

ADDRESS CHANGES

1398 ANTHONY, RAY (D) 505 S. Beverly Drive, #1256 Beverly Hills CA 90212
1135 CALHOUN, PAUL J. Box 20008 London Terrace Station New York NY 10011
1200 DIXON, WARDE H. (C/D) 4725 E. Sunrise Dr, #314 Tucson AZ 85718
1288 KORZENIOWSKI, AL 5102 North Forest Dr McLeansville NC 27301
0089 NIELSEN, C. M. Box 21005 Salt Lake City UT 84121
1265 PARTIN, JAMES D. Box 5503 Gainesville FL 32602-5503
1174 SHULL, HUGH Box 761 Camden SC 29020
0662 SMITH, BRUCE W. (C/D) Box 382266 Cambridge MA 02238

DECEASED

1251 O'HARE, JOHN J.
1144 RALSTON, ROY

RESIGNED

0988 HYNSON, N. J. (from NPD list)
1400 WORCH, REYNOLD L.

A.S.C.C. Check Pool Update

by Harry R. Johnson, Sr.

It's been a really good year for check collectors. I have met many new people who are interested in the field of check collecting.

Now the bad news! How can we keep the new collector happy? One way is to offer them a low-cost way of starting with at least 100 different checks from the Checkpool. At present this is not possible! I need each member to pull out a few of their own personal checks (old or modern, from closed accounts), and send them to me.

With the number of members we have and the many different states they live in this could be a very easy way to fill the Checkpool again and make it a valid source for the new collector.

If the members would rather do away with the Checkpool, a vote should be taken to do so. I like the idea of the Checkpool, but I am only one vote. I spend my time doing the Checkpool as a free service to the Society. All I ask of members is to provide checks to keep the Checkpool alive. There is a small group of members who have who have kept it alive, and we are running low on supplies to keep it going.

If we cannot get new collectors interested we fail the society and ourselves. It's up to you as members to keep the pool alive. Do your part and send in some checks, no matter how many!

I have personally supplied 2000 Florida checks recently, and I want to thank the following members for supplying checks since my last article:

P.C. McMichen	large lot of Florida
Herman Boraker	large lot of miscellaneous
Ellie Schacter	large lot of miscellaneous
Harry Johnson, Jr.	500 Ohio checks
Michael Miller	200 miscellaneous
Hector J. Turgeon	100+ miscellaneous
Marvin Schesinger	100 miscellaneous
Bob Hohertz	65+ miscellaneous

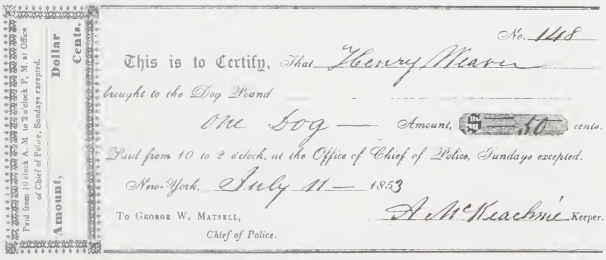
Again, let me stress how concerned I am about needing checks from all over the US and world to help keep the Checkpool alive. Please, let's all give a little to reap a lot in the way of new collectors.

Nominations are needed to fill the positions on the Board of Directors of those members whose terms expire in 1994. Send your nominations to the Secretary, Box 577, Garrett Park, MD 20896, before November 10.

Nominate up to six members for the Board. Election ballots will be sent with the October-December issue of *The Check Collector*.

Notes from the Editor

Our family is partial to dogs. From Wolfgang Amadeus Malamute to Spunky the mutt, we've had one living with us most of the time. Our oldest daughter works in a distant city and lives in an apartment that prohibits large pets, so my wife and I now find ourselves custodians of her golden retriever. All this is by way of introduction to the pictured item, and should help explain why I couldn't resist it in a Gypsyfoot Enterprises auction. Besides, if another reason for picturing it is necessary, we're nearing the end of the Chinese astrological Year of the Dog, which shouldn't go by without observation.



The document is interesting in itself. It seems to be a combination of voucher and check. Can anyone classify it?

What do you have in your collection that tickles your fancy? Send me a good reproduction and a few words about it for a future issue. I can always use short items.



The Saint Louis National and World Paper Money Convention and Show, scheduled for November 4, 5, and 6 , will be held at a new location. It has been moved to the Ramada - Henry the Eighth Hotel and Convention Center, 4690 North Lindbergh, Saint Louis, Missouri. I hope to see you there!

Across Our Desk

Price lists, fixed price and mail bid catalogs, journals, etc. received and compiled as a resource for our members. Items with an (S) may require a subscription. Please write first to the company.

Books and References

☞ A Catalogue of Nevada Checks, 1860-1933 by Douglas McDonald. Lists thousands of checks, drafts, warrants and other fiscal documents. All pieces are priced and rated as to rarity. Many are illustrated. Ordering details from: Castenholz and Sons, 1055 Hartzell Street, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

☞ Owning Western History, a guide to collecting rare documents, historical letters and valuable autographs from the Old West by Warren R. Anderson. Illustrated by over 75 photographs of many types of documents. Ordering details from: Mountain Press Publishing Company, PO Box 2399, Missoula, MT 59806.

☞ Interesting Notes about Territories by Roger H. Durand. A reference for collectors, with information about Indian Territory, Jefferson Territory, Northwest Territory, and Orleans Territory. Information about the westward expansion from the original thirteen states. Ordering details from: Roger H. Durand, PO Box 186, Rehoboth, MA 02769.

☞ Territorial Florida Banks and Bonds 1821-1845. A new reference for collectors of Florida Territorial items and those interested in early banking history. Ordering details from: Carling's of Florida, PO Drawer 580, Pomona Park, FL 32181-0580.

Price Lists, Catalogs, Mail Sales, etc.

(S) Monthly price list of checks, bank tokens, postcards, and related items. Lee Poleske, Box 871, Seward, AK 99664.

☞ Extensive price list of checks, drafts, promissory notes, etc., arranged by states and locations. M. S. Kazanjian, 25 King Philip Ave., Barrington, RI 02806.

(S) List of checks, stocks, and bonds, historical documents. Yesterday's Paper, PO Box 819, Concrete, WA 98237.

(S) Regular catalog of CSA and obsolete bank notes, scrip, bonds, and financial documents. Hugh Shull, PO Box 712, Leesville, SC 29070.

☞ Price list of archival albums and mylar holders for checks, bank notes, scrip, currency, etc. Also an extensive list of checks, drafts, warrants, stocks, and bonds. Oregon Paper Money Exchange, 6802 S.W. 33rd Place, Portland, OR 97219.

(S) Catalog of regular mail bid auctions of revenue stamps, checks, documents, stock certificates, and related items. H.J.W. Daugherty, PO Box 1146, Eastham, MA 02642

(S) Catalog of over 2,000 checks, drafts, notes, and receipts for collectors, arranged by states. Gene F. Mack, PO Box 60991, Jacksonville, FL 32236.

☞ Stock certificates for collectors. Advise of your collecting interests for current lists. American Vignettes, PO Box 155-CC, Roselle Park, NJ 07204.

(S) Regular list containing a variety of historical documents, including checks, autographs, manuscripts, embossed revenues, etc. Edward J. Craig, 41 Third Street, Newport, RI 02840.

☞ Net price list of revenue stamped paper including checks, drafts, receipts, and certificates. Michael E. Aldrich, PO Box 130484, St. Paul, MN 55113.

(S) Catalog of mail bid sale of checks, drafts, and miscellaneous fiscal paper, stocks and bonds. Also, a fixed price list of reference books. Gypsyfoot Enterprises, PO Box 350093, Grantsdale, MT 59835.

☞ Souvenir cards, copies of items of ABNCo archives of interest to collectors. American Bank Note Commemoratives, 7 High Street, Suite 12, Huntington, NY 11743.

☞ Regular lists for mail bid sales of historical documents, checks and financial history. Archival supplies included. COHASCO, INC., Postal 321, Yonkers, NY 10702. (Continued on next page)

ACROSS OUR DESK - continued

☞ Price list of RN-bearing checks, drafts, etc. available to collectors. A.J. DeVincent, 1463 Blue Bell Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

(S) Mail bid auction list featuring checks, stocks and bonds, obsoletes, receipts, ephemera, and paper Americana. James J. Reeves, Box 219, Huntingdon, PA 16652-0219.

☞ Catalog of autographed letters, documents and checks. Robert T. Batchelder, 1 West Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 10702

(S) Mail bid auctions often including checks and other fiscal documents. Herb LaTuchie's House for Collectors, Box 67009, 2128 Front St., Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

☞ Catalog of regular mail bid sales including checks and drafts, documents, stocks and bonds, autographs, etc. S.H. Jemik, PO Box 753, Bowie, MD 20715

☞ List of Western checks, stocks, mining and banking documents. Terence Swearingen, Box 1408, Gardnerville, NV 89410

(S) Price list of British and some overseas cheques. Collector's Gallery, 6&7 Castle Gates, Shrewsbury SY1 2AE, United Kingdom.

☞ Price list of British cheques, world postal orders, and banknotes. George and Jane White, 29 Shortacre, BASILDON, Essex, SS14 2LR, United Kingdom

THIS IS NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT!

Why not? Because we have fewer quarter-page advertisers than usual! Where can a check or fiscally-oriented document buyer or seller find a better audience?

So I ll use the space to ask a question: does any member know of a company that will custom-design checks? Or of a company that will do the necessary magnetic encoding on privately printed checks?

If you have any suggestions, please contact the Editor at the address on page 2. Thank you!



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Douglas McDonald
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Field Guide To Revenue Stamped Paper. By Bill Castenholz
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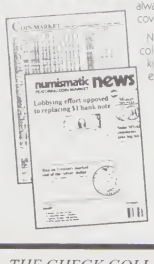
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